NCWA
Northern California Water Association

Memo

To:	Agricultural Caucus	From:	Dan Keppen
Re:	**State Reclamation Resolution 99-9 - "Cumulative Impacts to the Flood Control System by Restoration Impacts"**	Date:	06/08/99

Background:

There is growing concern in the Sacramento Valley with the increased emphasis placed by regulatory agencies on acquiring farmland along local rivers and streams for environmental restoration purposes. Many of these actions may result in unpredictable and changed river conditions that could directly impact agricultural diversions and protective fish screens. A positive step to help remedy this problem was introduced by the State Reclamation Board at its May 21st Board meeting. Resolution 99-9 (attached) would require all ecosystem restoration projects located within floodways comply with standards similar to those imposed on other floodway projects.

Analysis of Resolution:

Reclamation Board Resolution 99-9 will require hydraulic and other engineering studies to assess the individual and cumulative hydraulic impacts of ecosystem restoration and other development projects in floodways under the Board's jurisdiction. The new Board policy would also require these projects to comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

The Reclamation Board draft resolution goes a long way towards mitigating potential impacts from land acquisition projects designed for the benefit of fish and wildlife, including promotion of stream meander belts, enhancement of riverine corridor vegetation, and creation of overflow areas. The resolution as proposed is consistent with many of the principles endorsed by NCWA over the past 3 years.

Next Steps:

The Reclamation Board will consider the proposed resolution for final adoption at their June 18th meeting at the Resources Building Auditorium, First Floor, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, at 9:00 a.m. on June 18th. NCWA will likely appear at this meeting to testify in support of the resolution.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions or require further information on this topic.

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